



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Selectmen's Minutes 11-06-2006

### TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, November 6, 2006  
 7:15 p.m.

Present: Mr. Greeley, Chair, Ms. LaCourt, Vice Chair, Mr. Hurd, Mrs. Mahon, Ms. Rowe  
 Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Maher, and Mrs. Sullivan.

#### 1. Selectmen's Book Club Update

Kevin F. Greeley, Chair, Board of Selectmen

Mr. Greeley introduced Bill and Elaine Shea who discussed the book Mountains Beyond Mountains – The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer. They had met Dr. Farmer after taking a missionary trip with the Salvation Army to Haiti.

#### 2. Approval: MWRA Bond

Stephen J. Gilligan, Treasurer

Mr. Gilligan requested the Board approve the following:

- a) accepting local financial assistance agreement
- b) accepting an MWRA loan agreement  
 The total financial assistance amount is \$1,047,000.00.
- c) approve and authorize a sewer bond issued to the MWRA of \$575,850.00 –  
 to be issued 11/16/06.

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

#### 3. Discussion: Polling Places Closed in 2005

Kevin F. Greeley, Chair, Board of Selectmen

(tabled from 10/30/06)

The Selectmen discussed the data regarding the changes and unanimously reconfirmed their 2004 decision of relocating Precincts 3, 6, 7, 12, 14, and 17 to become effective at the 2005 Annual Town Election. Mrs. Mahon requested that Mrs. Krepelka research a rate pay increase for the election workers.

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

#### 4. Discussion: Health Insurance Recommendations January 1, 2007

Brian F. Sullivan, Town Manager

(tabled from 10/30/06)

Mrs. Mahon asked the Board to reconsider no increases to the retiree's co-pay in order to help them financially.

Mr. John Bilafer, Post Employment Benefits Committee, spoke on behalf of going with the increase contribution rate from HMO'S from 10% to 15% for retirees and having any Town side savings be transferred into the Town Meeting established healthcare trust fund (similar to the pension funding program) in order to protect the future integrity of healthcare plans for seniors. Mr. Bilafer briefly discussed the Town's liability for post employment health benefits which was recently reported in the Town's actuarial report at \$109 million.

Mr. Ken Hughes, Health Insurance Advisory Committee, reported that the increases in co-pays for several health plans have been approved by some unions while others are still negotiating (the retirees are not part of the union). Mr. Hughes agrees that any savings should be earmarked for the healthcare trust fund to help senior retirees. Ms. Lisa Jackson and Ms.

Chris Church, BC/BS representatives, explained the plans and answered all questions. After much discussion the Board voted the following final actions.

Ms. LaCourt moved to approve an increase in the health care rates from 10% to 15% while providing for a means income test as voted:

**Voted:** That the Board of Selectmen, as the appropriate public authority as same is defined in section 2 of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, and pursuant to its rule making authority as provided in Section 14 thereof and pursuant to Section 16 of said chapter, hereby adopts the following means test for retiree HMO contribution levels:

*All retirees shall contribute a minimum of 15% towards the cost of their healthcare coverage, provided however, any current retiree (retirement date prior to November 6, 2006) who meets the income and asset criteria set forth below shall only contribute 10% toward the premium for HMO's. In no event shall a retiree pay a lower percentage for an HMO plan than they paid at the time of their retirement.*

**Criteria**

*The total annual adjusted gross income of the retiree and spouse, if applicable, shall not exceed \$30,000 as reported on their Federal Tax Return form 1040 or equivalent. Nor shall total assets, as defined in Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C for elderly tax exemptions, exceed \$55,000.*

*The retiree will be required to annually submit a signed copy of their Form 1040 or equivalent tax form and any other valid documentation to verify the income and asset levels. Due to the confidentiality of the information and to comply with any HIPAA federal privacy regulations, the determination of eligibility will be made by the Personnel Director.*

SO VOTED (4-0)

Mr. Hurd moved to recommend any additional Town side savings as a result of going to 15% be earmarked for the Town Meeting established healthcare trust fund for retiree's health savings.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Ms. Rowe arrived at the meeting during this item but abstained from voting

Mrs. Mahon moved to delay implementation of last Monday night's vote on retiree's co-pays and place for reconsideration on the 11/13/06 meeting agenda.

SO VOTED (4-0-1)

Ms. Rowe abstained from voting

Mr. Maher clarified that the vote, if taken, only delays implementation until November 13, 2006 and will be implemented if not reconsidered on November 13, 2006.

Mr. Sullivan will provide to the Selectmen the following additional information:

- the actual figures affected (re: retirees), the number of retirees affected by the increase in co-pays
- the BC/BS drug utilization report
- info from the Health Insurance Advisory Committee as presented at the past Selectmen's meetings

5. Approval: New Election Worker

Janice Sophis, 10 Osceola Path, Pct. 4, U

Maureen Takeuchi, 186 Medford St., Pct. 9, U

Nora Takeuchi, 186 Medford St., Pct. 9, R

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

6. Discussion: Conflict of Interest Exemption/Karen Dillon

John J. Maher, Town Counsel

Mr. Maher explained that this request is common practice allowing members to participate in the grant process but removing them from voting on the grants.

Ms. Rowe moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

7. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

There were no matters presented for consideration of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Maher apologized to Mrs. Mahon for his interrupting her at the last meeting. Mrs. Mahon accepted the apology.

Ms. Rowe reported that she had been at a very productive Parks and Recreation meeting and she'll report on it at a future meeting.

Mr. Hurd announced there would be a Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday morning starting at Walgreen's with a dedication at Williams Square at 11:30am.

Mr. Hurd also announced on Friday a dedication for Vietnam veterans at the High School.

Mr. Hurd requested to use the Town Hall glass display cases in December for the Children's Room.

Mr. Sullivan said yes to the request.

Mr. Greeley suggested December 4<sup>th</sup> as a Goal Setting Meeting. Everyone agreed with the date.

Mr. Greeley thanked Ms. LaCourt for filling in for him at the Summit Meeting. Mr. Greeley stated the next meeting for the initial planning group is December 7<sup>th</sup> for 3 hours.

Mr. Greeley encouraged everyone to get out and vote tomorrow for the State Election.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 9:25 pm.

SO VOTED (5-0)

A True Record: Attest

Mary Ann Sullivan

**Next BOS meeting Monday, 11/13/06**